MAT-SU MONITOR
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA COLLEGE
May 2010

MSC Assistant Director Dr. Kristin Owens to Retire

By: Bradley S. Lucas
Mat-Su Monitor

For the past two years, Dr. Kristin Owens has served Mat-Su College as the Assistant Director of the college, spearheading and completing project after project. But what about her background, her history, her accomplishments here at MSC? I had the pleasure of learning these things during the interview I recently conducted with her.

Dr. Owens has been working full-time for twenty years in the field of teaching and administration. Her first job was that of an off-campus programs advisor for a small college in Buffalo, New York. As she explained to me, that job consisted of her going went to four different prison sites, one of which was Attica, and helping the inmates them better themselves through higher education. She was twenty-one years old at the time.

While working at the college in Buffalo, she learned much about the inner workings of a college. Her job allowed her to work in many different areas of college administration from financial aid to ordering textbooks. After a while, she decided that she enjoyed her field of study so much that she decided to pursue a Master's Degree in student and personnel administration. She received her Master's Degree from the college she was attending in Buffalo. After this, she decided that she wished to pursue her education even further, so she went on to Penn. State to pursue her doctoral degree in higher education, where she worked for seven years, first in residence life and later in continuing professional education.

» See MSC Assistant Director to Retire **Page 6**

Is the Economic Crisis Over Yet?

By Elisha Waugh
Special to the Mat-Su Monitor

We all remember the 2009 recession. The overpriced gas, the huge job layoffs and, of course, the enormous bank bailouts. Now that the economy is starting to move again, many people believe that the worst is over, and that everything is going back to normal. However, according to many economists, the finical crisis is far from over. Economists believe that the food industry is next to get hit. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, the cost of food is expected to rise up to five percent in the next year. Some economists believe this number is low and expect food to rise in upwards of eight percent or more. Ron Plain, professor of agricultural economics at the University of Missouri, believes that meats and dairies will be hit the hardest. "Prices will move up as we move through 2010," Plain said. "And they should still be higher in 2011. This is just the beginning."

» See Economic Crisis **Page 3**

iPad: A better Textbook?

By Torie Gunderson

Special to the Mat-su Monitor

Purchasing textbooks can be costly and frustrating. Many students purchase their books through the Campus Cache; however, they pay the price for convenience and sometimes the books they need are already sold out. Unfortunately buying books online can be a gamble. I bought my books through an Amazon affiliate and received my books a month later; however, I am penny-pinching miser and selected standard shipping. As a result, I went the first two weeks of class without any of my books. I do not recommend this course of action to diligent students it is stressful and irritating; however, paying for express shipping to Alaska can cost a small fortune.

What is the answer to this dilemma?

» See iPad Textbook **Page 5**

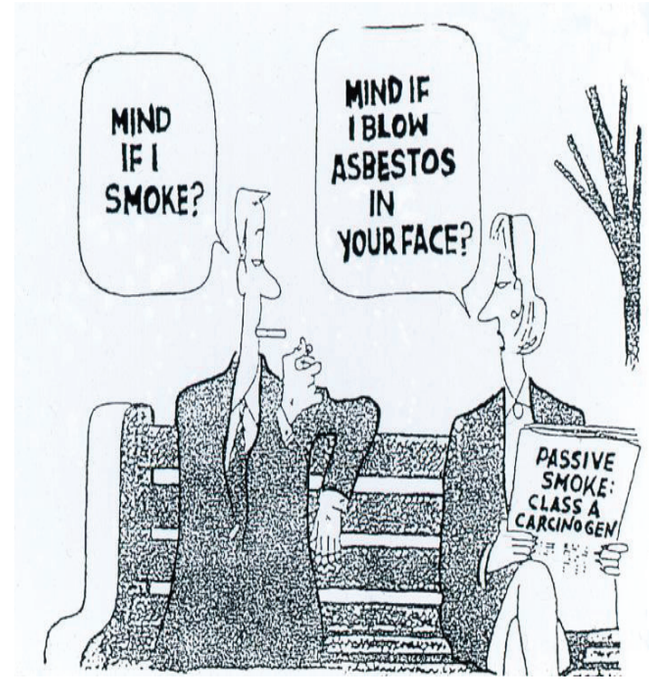
Smoke Free Workplaces: Good for Business

Reprinted from the Breath Free Mat-Su newsletter

Support for Anchorage's smoke free indoor air law is more popular than ever, according to an Alaska Department of Health & Social Services report. And surveys in the Mat-Su Valley show support for smoke free policies is growing here as well.

The law, which was implemented in 2006 and prohibits smoking in all indoor workplaces, including restaurants and bars, enjoys overwhelming support among adults (84 percent) and is supported by a substantial majority of self- identified smokers (57 percent). When asked if Anchorage's hospitality venues, including bars, were now more/less enjoyable the response was clearly more enjoyable among all adults (86 percent) as well as smokers (65 percent), according to the Tobacco Prevention & Control in Alaska Annual Report: 2009 Update. What's more, research in Anchorage supports the conclusions of the 2006 U.S. Surgeon General report, which shows that smoke free policies can have a positive economic impact on the hospitality industry or are neutral in effect, according to the state report. Of those surveyed, 18 percent report going out more often to bars now that they are smoke free, while 74 percent report going out as often as they did before. Only 7 percent report going out less often.

A 2008 survey conducted by Hellenthal & Associates, an Anchorage based market research firm, shows that 65 percent of adults in the Mat-Su Valley support a law prohibiting smoking in all indoor workplaces. That same percentage said they believed smoking restrictions in bars would not hurt business.



Fall Registration is open.
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Register for classes at UAOnline before your seat is taken.

Matanuska-Susitna College
University of Alaska Anchorage
www.matsu.alaska.edu

Spring has Sprung

By Larissa McMahill

Special to the Mat-Su Monitor

Spring has arrived, and with spring, comes all the garbage. I am sure that like me, all of you have noticed the beautiful array of plastic bags scattered from Palmer all the way to Wasilla. Most of you are wondering where they all come from. Well, let me just tell you, they all come from you and me and our endless grocery lists.

Most of us would like to say that we do not use the plastic bags but use the green cloth bags. Let's be completely honest with each other and admit that if you are anything like me, you forget them in the car, and by the time you remember you left them in the car, you are already at the checkout line and ready to go home.

Well, I have a suggestion for you. Instead of putting them in plastic bags or buying more cloth bags, put your things in the cart without bags and stroll them to your car and unload them into your bags there. Or, use a laundry basket. Yes I said laundry basket. It is completely practical and it fits inside your grocery cart. You can do all of your shopping and fill it while it rides around in your cart. Once you get to the checkout stand, you unload it. Then reload it while it's in the cart and wheel it out to the car. It easily fits in the car, and when you get home you just simply carry it into the house.

No more worries about the plastic bags breaking or the unsightly litter along our roadsides. Like cloth bags, the laundry basket can be stored in your vehicle, and when you pull into the parking lot, simply put it in a cart and walk in the store. I use mine all the time. It works perfect for me, and I am sure it will work for you.

Economic Crisis

Continued from cover

The rise in food prices is mainly because of the rising cost of animal feed due to the use of corn as an energy source. Corn based ethanol has raised the price of corn by nearly sixty percent since 2007. The higher feed cost and the lack of demand caused many livestock farmers to lower their production.

Plain also stated "Because of the recession, demand was down, but we are tightening up supply, and demand will probably pick up as the year progresses. . . The only thing that will stop it is if the recession keeps going." Now that demand is starting to slowly pick up, but supply is still low, prices are predicted to rise.

Not only are U.S. prices rising, but prices in other countries are as well. India has been hit especially hard. The cost of rice and milk has already risen 12 percent, and potatoes have risen an astonishing 102 percent. This is forcing other countries to buy more food from America, which is also predicted to raise demand here in the U.S. because more food than normal is being shipped overseas.

So what does all of this mean for Americans? Well, if you currently spend $300 a week on groceries, then you should expect to spend an additional $1300 annually, or more, in the year to come. In an already horrific economy, where many families are struggling as it is, this could be devastating. If a family is forced to choose between paying they're mortgage and eating, they're most likely going to choose to eat. This means we may see additional foreclosures in the years to come.

Mat-Su College

Campus Director

Chief executive officer
for Matanuska-Susitna College (MSC)
located in Palmer, AK.

MSC is accredited through the
University of Alaska Anchorage
and the Northwest Commission on Colleges
and Universities (NWCCU)

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What is a Student Ambassador?

By Chris Wetzler

Have you ever thought about getting a job on campus? Would you like to hone your leadership and organizational skills? If you are looking for an opportunity to serve the college and earn some extra money in the process, I have a great suggestion for you. Why not become a Student Ambassador? What is a Student Ambassador? Well, allow me to tell you a little about what I have been doing for the past year. I have helped build flower beds for the Palmer Veterans and Pioneer Home, filled Thanksgiving baskets for needy families through the Mat-Su Lions Club, and picked potatoes at the UAF experimental farm for local soup kitchens, to name a few.

Aside from community service projects such as these, I have helped with several on-campus projects as well. New Student Orientation is conducted every spring and fall semester, and the Student Ambassadors are involved in planning and setup for the event, and we also conduct campus tours for new students and usher them to workshops where they get vital information about campus life.

Mat-Su College reaches out to future students at various events, such as job fairs and high school visits, and the Student Ambassadors are there to help answer questions from a student perspective. In addition, we help conduct information sessions and workshops for new and current Mat-Su students. Being a Student Ambassador also allows you the opportunity to work with the Marketing department by participating in Mat-Su College promotional opportunities, such as radio commercials and video/photo shoots; I even got the chance to walk in a parade and speak at the Palmer Chamber of Commerce.

If I had to choose only one word to describe what a Student Ambassador is, I would have to say that he or she is a servant. Whether we are helping students, campus faculty and staff, friends, neighbors, or others in our local community, our goal as Student Ambassadors is to help people thrive and succeed.

I will not lie to you by saying that everything I have done as a Student Ambassador has been easy. This job may require a person to get out of his or her comfort zone; I call this personality stretching. However, I believe that nothing worthwhile should be easy. I do not believe that leaders are born—I believe that they are molded as a result of applied effort, especially when the forecast calls for unfavorable conditions. I also think that, to be a great leader, one must also be a willing servant and follower.

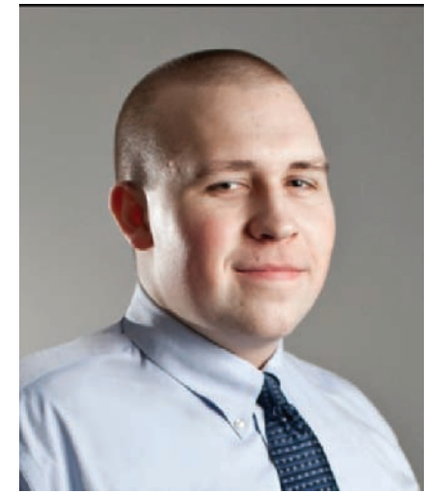
It has been my privilege to work for the people who administer the Student Ambassador program: Mike Swanson, Amy Seamans, and Sandy Gravely. I challenge you to help your campus community by becoming a Student Ambassador. I guarantee that, in the end, you will be a better person for having done so. See Andrea Andrews in Administrative Services to apply and become part of this team of Mat-Su College professionals who truly have a heart for the students they serve.

Mat-Su College Student to Receive High Honors

By Dr. Pete Praetorius

Mat-Su College student Bradley Lucas has been named a Phi Theta Kappa New Century Scholar. This prestigious award is given by the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society to the top scoring community college student from each of the 50 states.

The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society was formed in the early 20th century to recognize and encourage scholarship among two-year college students. A student must be a member of the PTK to be considered for the New Century Scholar honor. The PTK was chartered on the Mat-Su College campus just this academic year, so this is the first year that a Mat-Su College student has been eligible for the award. Assistant Director Kristin Owens was particularly pleased that one of our students was chosen for the award during our local chapter's first year. "That he got it this first year out is really superb," Owens said.



Bradley will represent Alaska during the opening ceremonies of the American Association of Community Colleges Convention in Seattle this month. For his achievement of being named a New Century Scholar, Bradley will receive a $2,000 scholarship and recognition at the AACC Convention. The New Century Scholars program is sponsored annually by the American Association of Community Colleges, The Coca-Cola Foundation, the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, and Phi Theta Kappa.

The Mat-Su Monitor Wants You!

If you would like an outlet for your writing look no further!
The Mat-Su Monitor is looking for writers who would like to see their work published.
For more information about how you can get involved in the
Mat-Su Monitor contact Dr. Pete Praetorius.

matsumonitor@gmail.com

(907) 745-9728

iPad Textbook

Continued from cover

It may be technology, as usual. Textbook manufacturers have recently begun offering electronic versions of textbooks. So that students can download their books to their computers and digital readers. There are many benefits to using digital readers such as being able to annotate, use the dictionary, search for specific information, memos and more. It's like having a library in your hands. In addition, students are no longer lugging heavy textbooks around, which will reduce stress on the back and shoulders.

The latest buzz around e-books is centered on Apples new iPad. This device is full of tools that could benefit students in great ways, not to mention save them money on textbooks. Apple is not the first to think of this though; there are many digital readers on the market including the Kindle by Amazon, and E-Reader by Sony. There are many options for students, but it depends on their preferences. I think any of these digital readers would leave a student very satisfied, because of the technology, how easy it is to purchase books, the lighter load, and no more worrying about whether you grabbed the right book. Life is simplified.

Clubs Provide Learning and Fun

By Denise Reeve
Special to the Mat-Su Monitor

In addition to the many degree programs and classes offered, Mat Su College offers many student club venues. Student clubs serve many purposes: they provide a chance to meet other students with similar interests, provide extra study time, and provide a voice on important student issues. Club representatives meet weekly with the Student Government to share ideas and find solutions to student concerns. Here is some information on three clubs active on campus.

Newly formed last semester is the Veterinary Assist Club, which offers two extra study sessions weekly for anyone enrolled in this new exciting career certificate program. Students interested in learning more about this field are welcome to sit in on one of the club sessions either Wednesday or Friday afternoons.

Also newly formed is the Metal Hedz (Mat Su Metalsmith Club), which is the largest club on campus with 24-28 members. The Art Department has recently added metal casting classes to augment the Beginning Metalsmith class that has been so popular. These classes teach jewelry design, fabrication, metal soldering, and multiple metal casting techniques. The Metal Hedz Club offers additional lab time for members on Thursday afternoons from 12 noon to 3:45pm and Fridays from 10:00am to 12 noon. The times may be subject to change. If you have ever been curious about metalsmithing, drop by and visit with any of the club members. We are very proud of this art form and are always willing to share it with others.

TEAM ART is a creative presence on campus every semester. Simply look around and you will see the colorful contributions of TEAM ART students. Examples include the library window and murals. Paintings, masks, sculpture, and other 3-dimensional art forms are often displayed in the gallery upstairs in the Fred and Sarah Machetanz building. Find your inner artist and visit TEAM ART meetings on Fridays in the drawing classroom at 3:30pm.

Clubs at Mat Su College provide opportunities for like-minded students to connect, express their interests, and have just plain fun. These are just three of the wonderful groups meeting here on campus. As President of these three clubs, I recommend picking a club to visit. Clubs provide many benefits; you can make new friends and have fun, all while learning something new and fascinating.

New Degrees in Nutrition

By Eden Valley
Special to the Mat-Su Monitor

Have you or someone close to you developed an interest in nutrition? Have you been looking for an opportunity for education to prepare you for a career in a nutrition-related field? A 2006 University of Alaska feasibility study indicated the need for a baccalaureate degree program in Nutrition in Alaska. This finding, in addition to the ever-increasing rates of diabetes and obesity, along with constant (approximately 25-35) yearly requests for a nutrition degree, supported the strong need for Bachelor of Science Degrees in Nutrition and Dietetics. The wait is now over for the Nutrition degree. The University of Alaska Anchorage now offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Nutrition with two Emphasis options: Community Nutrition and Nutrition Science. Many of the courses for the degrees are available online, which enhances the degree's appeal to the whole state of Alaska.

The Community Nutrition emphasis is for students who are interested in non-RD (registered dietician) required jobs in public health, health promotion and wellness settings, including Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC). Graduates of this degree track will work cooperatively with other professionals and are often supervised by Registered Dieticians to improve the health and well-being of individuals and communities. The Nutrition Science emphasis is for students who are interested in advanced study in nutrition (i.e. graduate school) to prepare for a career in nutrition research or for students interested in applying to medical school who would like a strong foundation in nutrition.

The nutrition degree has received final NWCCU accreditation and students may begin declaring nutrition as their major as of the spring 2010 semester.

A Bachelor of Science degree in Dietetics has also been approved by the University of Alaska Board of Regents. However, it is not yet approved by the American Dietetic association and cannot accept students at this time. The degree is for students who are interested in becoming a Registered Dietician, which is a licensed healthcare professional. Students would complete an American Dietetic Association accredited Bachelor's degree in Dietetics plus a Dietetic Internship (available at UAA or nationwide.)

Information regarding job ideas for both RDs and non-RDs is available at the UAA Community and Technical College Culinary Arts, Hospitality/Dietetics web page at http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/ctc/programs/culinary/index.cfm For questions about these degrees contact Tim Doebler at (907) 786-4728 or Kendra Sticka at (907) 786-4935.

Want to Become an Election Official?

The Mat-Su Borough is holding an info session on becoming an election official on June 11th in the Mat-Su College Atrium from 1-2 pm. The session will probably run for 20-30 mins.

MSC Assistant Director to Retire

Continued from cover

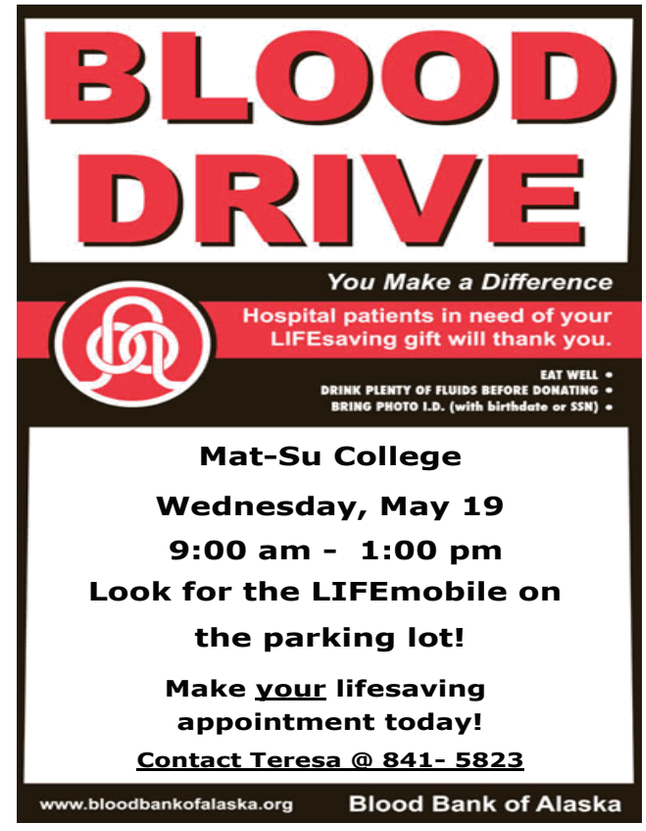
After receiving her doctoral degree in 2001, she moved to the University of Maryland where she worked as the Assistant Dean for approximately six years developing graduate level programs and certificates. During this time in her life, she met her future husband who asked her if she wanted to go to Alaska. She agreed, and they moved to Alaska four years ago. Here in Alaska she first worked at UAA before coming to work at the Mat-Su College.

When I inquired about her future plans, she told me that she would be retiring since her husband will be retiring from the military in two years. She told me that she is considering doing some part-time teaching, but she will definitely not be working full-time anymore. She also said that he and her husband plan on doing a lot of travelling, but she thinks that they will stay in Alaska.

I asked her what she thought her greatest achievement was while working at Mat-Su College. She told me that it would have to be the formation of the college's own basketball team, the Mat-Su College Polar Bears.

Dr. Owens has accomplished many tasks here at MSC over the past two years. One of the things that she felt needed to be improved was the recognition of student achievement. In this endeavor, she has done several things, including the Dean's List and Chancellor's List reception held every semester, and the formation of the honors society Phi Theta Kappa. Dr. Owens and her office have also worked extensively to provide the campus with two new programs, the vet-assisting and renewable energy programs. Dr. Owens has also successfully developed programs to increase student retention and success including the Coach Program and Finals Late Night Study Night. Perhaps the most noticeable change Dr. Owens has brought to MSC, however, is the new furniture around campus.

Dr. Owens has been a wonderful addition to the Mat-Su College, and has had a noticeable impact on the college through the various programs and endeavors that she has employed. We can only hope that the next Assistant Director will have as much drive and ambition to continue the great work that Dr. Owens has started at our campus.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MSC Sports

By Kathryn Derendinger

Have you heard the news? Mat-Su College now has two co-ed sports teams. Last year the Mat-Su Polar Bears, co-ed basketball team was formed, and now a volleyball team has been started as well.

The electronic boards around Campus contain an awesome slide that Colton Newman-Vice President of the co-ed volleyball posted. The electronic boards also display the days that the volleyball team meets. The team meets every Monday from 12p.m.-1p.m. in Room FSM 105. The team is looking for experienced or inexperienced players. If you cannot make meetings and you want to join contact Karen Backlund (Coach) 745-9319, Jake Worden (President) 775-8014, or Colton Newman (Vice President) 242-4423.

The Mat-Su Polar Bears, Mat-Su College's co-ed basketball team, is forming now for its next season. For information, contact John Erickson (Coordinator) 745-8236.

Library Extended Hours

The library will be extending its hours between April 17th and 27th:

Saturday 4/17:	9:00-5:00
Mon-Thurs 4/19-4/22:	8:30-10:00
Friday 4/23:	8:30-6:00
Saturday 4/24:	9:00-5:00
Monday 4/26:	8:30-10:00
Tuesday 4/27:	8:30-10:00

MAT-SU MONITOR

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MSC Student Government Congratulates the Class of 2010!

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Architectural Drafting
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James Jay Rolfe
Mariko Anna Rousculp

Civil Drafting
James Jay Rolfe

Mechanical & Electrical Drafting
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Bachelor of Arts, Early Childhood Education
Debora Ann Lee

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Kristina Nicole Huling

Bachelor of Arts, History
Robert Michael Shanks Jr.

Bachelor of Human Service
Barbara Ann Griggs

University of Alaska Southeast

Bachelor of Business Administration
Jennifer Lynne Brown

Congratulations to all of you!

On the 22nd of April, between the hours of 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Mat-Su College (MSC) student organizations will be hosting several events around different themes. The following activities will be part of the Mat-Su College Spring Bash:

Student Government: Student Appreciation

- MSC Student Government BBQ – Come to the Atrium and have a hamburger that is not your average 'Crabby Patty'
- MSC Student Government Election – Participate in the democratic process to voice your opinions at MSC and throughout the University of Alaska

Carbon Crew: Earth Day

- Come to the FSM Lobby to find out how much of an impact you have on the Environment

MSC Student Resource Fair: Campus Involvement

- Clubs – Come to Snodgrass Hall to see what you can do to get involved will your fellow students who have similar interests
- Phi Theta Kappa –to learn about being a member of this honor society for two-year colleges

MSC Student Ambassadors: New Student Outreach

- Snodgrass Hall will also be the location where you can learn about the Student Ambassador program and how you can serve in this student leadership position

Looking for Free Money?

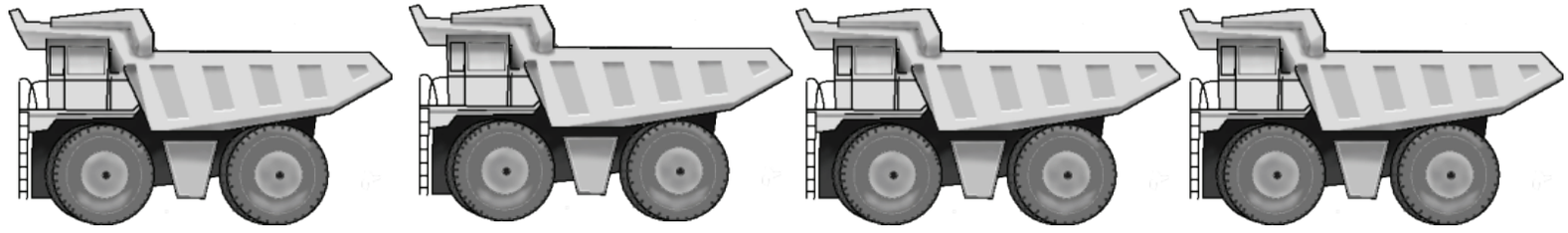
By Moguns Tyler
Special to the Mat-Su Monitor

Looking for free money for college? It may be easier than you think. Applying for a scholarship is fast, easy, and definitely worth it. There are literally tens of thousands of dollars waiting to be given to students who want the money and are willing to look for it.

How does it work? Start by going to the UAA website and typing "scholarships" in the search box. Follow the directions to filling out the application. The application is processed and sent to committees who rate your application. The rating is based on how well you meet the requirements, information given in your essay and comparisons with other competing applicants. The applicant having the highest points is given the scholarship.

"The biggest thing students forget to do is to add enough information," says Mat-Su College Financial Aid Officer, Korry Dunham. "You need to make yourself stand out...and put in as much information as you can. Show them why you should receive the money instead of the others who applied." Also if you miss a deadline, apply anyway. They keep the scholarships open year round. If you have any questions, want help with your essay or want a handout of scholarship websites stop by the financial aid office. "We will be more than happy to help."

Mat-Su Monitor would like to thank the Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman for all of their support. Call (907) 352-2250 to learn about home delivery.



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It's dirty when it's mined
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Upcoming Art Events

Art events on campus that are open to the Public and submitted by Suzanne Bach, Fine Arts Coordinator (907) 745-9755 sbach@matsu.alaska.edu

JURIED STUDENT SHOW
Judi Rideout, local artist with national acclaim, will be the juror for the 2010 Juried Student Show. There will be an opening for the public on Saturday April 17, 2:00-4:00P and again on Wednesday April 21, 12:00-1:00P to meet the students and see the art in the "Upstairs Gallery" FSM200. Prize money is provided by TEAM ART our campus art club. The show will hang until April 30

VISITING ARTISTS PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP
Barry Mc Wayne's three day workshop "Digital Photography: from Camera to Print " May 12,13,14 from 9:30a-4:30p will include information for both novice and advanced photographers. The price is $155 for all three days and is a wonderful opportunity to get yourself ready to make great pictures during the summer. Barry is the Curator Emeritus of the Museum of the North on the University of Fairbanks Campus. The class will meet in Snodgrass Hall Room 119.

VISITING ARTIST OIL PAINTING WORKSHOP
Caleb Stone, from Massachusetts will teach "Oil Painting, Plein Air" in a five day workshop at various valley locations, May 17-21 from 9:30-4:30p for $250. If weather is not cooperating, the outdoor workshop will meet indoors in FSM212. For supply list contact Suzanne Bach sbach@matsu.alaska.edu

VISITING ARTIST WATERCOLOR PAINTING WORKSHOP
Caleb Stone, from Massachusetts will teach "Watercolor, Plein Air" in a five day workshop at various valley locations, May 24-28 from 9:30-4:30p for $250. If weather is not cooperating, the outdoor workshop will meet indoors in FSM212. For supply list contact Suzanne Bach sbach@matsu.alaska.edu

Students Win Sculpture Bid

"Tie the Knot, Community and College" fundraiser event on Feb 12 at the Palmer Depot, raised over $10,000 which will help fund a summer event on campus in 2011. Picture attached of metal sculpture by Taylor Buxton, TEAM ART, V.P. made and donated for the fundraiser was given to Suzanne Bach, Fine Arts Coordinator. Several students and faculty successfully bid on the sculpture and presented it to Suzanne as a gift.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic School

260 E. Nelson Ave. Wasilla, Alaska
Phone: 376-0883

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic School, located in Wasilla, is home to students from as far away as Willow and the Butte. We are now in our third year, and have just under 50 students enrolled in our school, from kindergarten through 8th grade. Students thrive here at Our Lady of the Valley – a place that teaches academics in an environment that puts our Catholic faith into action. The small class size assures our children of a low pupil to teacher ratio, enabling that individual attention to be focused on their learning. The school actively promotes an atmosphere of kindness, where students know that they and their families are valued and cared for.

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At OLV we don't just see students, we see potential!

Now enrolling for the 2010-2011 school year!

Movie Reviews

A local review of recent blockbusters
By: Andrew Loeb

Alice in wonderland
Genre: A Tim Buton Film

We join Alice 11 years after her first trip to Wonderland. She is the lone sane person in a crowd of lunatics that are trying to control her every move. When she runs away to escape them, she finds herself back in Wonderland… the lone sane person in a crowd of lunatics. For anyone really familiar with the first story, the film does a great job of continuing on. Alice has her naivety to Wonderland being real, but it allows for the story to be more real. It allows the characters to grow and realize new things about themselves and grow beyond what they ever thought they could be. This film is excellent. The only thing I was disappointed with was the last fight scene being extremely predictable. I suggest that everyone see this movie.

Story: 10/10 Characters 9.5/10
Comedy: 8/10 Action: 9/10
Replay: High

Dear John
Genre: Romance

Channing Tatum and Amanda Seyfried play lovers that try their best to make their relationship work. From the first night they spend at the beach, they know something is worth fighting for. Channing Tatum's character John is a Special Forces officer in the Army and his 2-week leave allows him time to spend with his autistic father. When he meets Amanda Seyfried's character Savannah, he finds something to fill the days. But when his leave is up, he doesn't know what to do about what has developed. Through a sequence of letters over the time of his contract of a year, they write to each other about everything… or do they? We get to experience the story over the time that the terrorist attack of 9-11 occurs, and this occurrence causes a rift between our lovers.

I felt this movie was misrepresented by the previews as an action romance genre film. That being said, the movie did very well as the true genre of the film. Had it been portrayed for its true style, it may have been less popular, but anyone that took the time to see the movie was surprised by the shift. But it was worth it. This movie is great. See this movie. It makes a great date film, especially for those of you with significant others in the armed forces.

Story: 9/10 Characters: 8.5/10
Romance: 10/10 Replay: Medium

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The Wild Olive

A local restaurant review
By: Jane Deuster

A memorable lunch begins at The Wild Olive, located on Wasilla Lake at 2061 E Palmer-Wasilla Hwy. The restaurant opened on March 1st 2009 and is family owned and operated by DeeDee and Tyreen Torkelson with help from JoDee, Kurtis, Kayla, Edie, and Tyrsten Torkelson. The Wild Olive boasts a menu sure to please the pallet. DeeDee is from Minnesota and Tyren was born in Anchorage, and both have been in the restaurant business for most of their working careers. Their inspiration for opening The Wild Olive originated from doing what they know and do best, it's a dream realized.

The décor is warm and inviting; Alaskan art dons the walls, including paintings by Fred Machetanz, Robert Bateman, and Bev Doolittle, just to name a few. Settle into the oak tables and chairs and enjoy the scenic mountain views. Summertime dining begins their patio dining service, and catching up on a bit of work poses no problem since wireless internet is available at no cost to the customers.

The Wild Olive offers healthy menu items beginning with delicious appetizers to choose from. Dealing with local businesses is important to DeeDee and Tyren, for instance they build specialty sandwiches, wraps, and salads with ingredients from Boars Head Meats and Cheeses, and nothing beats these sandwiches nestled on the daily fresh bread from North Star Bakery. When I ate lunch at The Wild Olive, I ordered the ZOOPA (soup of the day). The Chicken Rice soup was yummy, and The Looney Ben sandwich actually has apple slices, ham, provolone,

tomato, onion, guacamole mayo & lettuce on Jalapeno Cheese Bread! All I can say is Bravo! My lunch was unique and definitely satisfied my appetite and wowed my taste buds. In addition to unique sandwiches, wraps, and salads, The Wild Olive serves up homemade 12" pizzas. But no matter what you order, you should definitely top it off with one of their delectable desserts and a cup of "Joe" made by JoDee Fox from the coffee house. Choose from Cappuccinos, Mochas, Lattes, Steamers, Hot Chocolate, Chai, Fruit Smoothies, Frappes, and Italian Sodas.

Along with a variety of delicious wines, The Wild Olive serves up a variety of beers and draft micro brews including IPA and Raspberry Wheat from Moose's Tooth, Kolsch from Midnight Sun Brewing Company, and Scottish Ale from Sleeping Lady Brewing Company.

Local businesses utilize The Wild Olive for parties, meetings, and formal or informal gatherings. There is no delivery service at this time, but you can call in an order for pick up at 376-2866. Restaurant hours are 11:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Sunday and during the summer months they will be open during evening hours.

The Torkelsons believe that presentation and personal involvement with their customers is the highest priority. Come visit The Wild Olive; relax, enjoy some terrific food, quality service, and a welcoming atmosphere.

MAT-SU COLLEGE VISITING ARISTS

Oil Painting Workshop

With Caleb Stone from Massachusetts

May 17—May 21 (9:30a-4:30p) $250

Outdoor painting with demo and critiques

Digital Photography Workshop

With Barry McWayne from Fairbanks

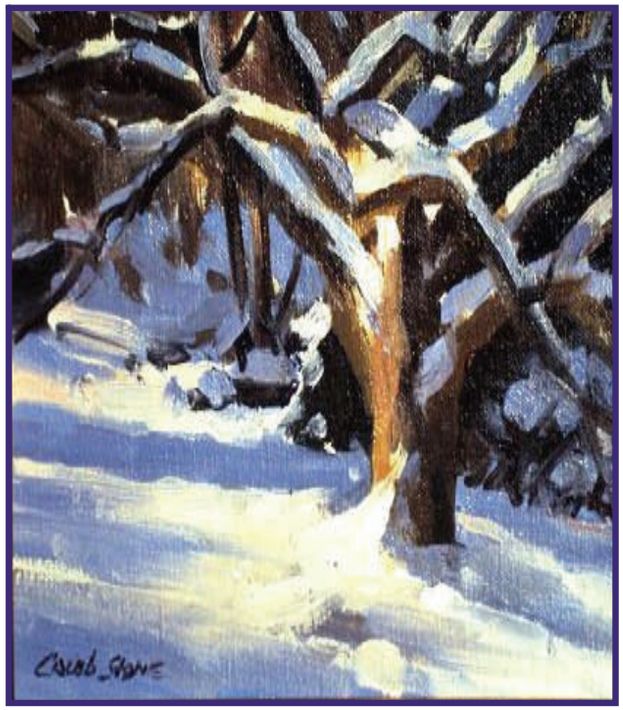
May 12—14 (9:30a to 4:30p) $155

Watercolor Workshop

With Caleb Stone from Massachusetts

May 24—May 28 (9:30a-4:30p) $250

Outdoor painting with demo and critiques



REGISTER ON LINE NOW!

See Summer Schedule @ www.matsu.alaska.edu

Suzanne Bach, Art Coordinator
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sbach@matsu.alaska.edu

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